moderate somewhat from very high growth rate in the last 3 years but remain sufficiently high this year generating new employment opportunities. Further, 3.24 crore households have been provided employment under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as on 15.12.2008 in the current financial year. Year-wise and category-wise estimates of employment for the period 2008-10 are not available. The steps taken specifically for labour intensive industries among others include: providing interest subvention of 2% for pre and post shipment credit for industries like textiles, handlooms, handicrafts, gems and jewellery, and marine products upto 31.3.2009; refinance facility of Rs. 7000 crore for Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) by RBI to support micro, small and medium enterprises; reduction of rate of central excise duty on cotton textiles and textile articles from 4% to Nil; and Inclusion of all items of handicrafts under 'Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.'

Loss to Air India due to overbooking

†*312. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being realised by Government on account of overbooking of tickets by Air India and the amount paid in the form of compensation to passengers each year from the year 2005 to October, 2008;

(b) whether a review of the losses incurred is made by Government every year; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to contain the losses being incurred on account of overbooking since 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No income is earned on account of overbooking. However, revenues are optimized by overbooking of flights. The details of Denied Boarding Compensation paid by Air India are as under:

Year	Compensation Paid (Rs. Crores)
2005-06	11.57
2006-07	06.77
2007-08	05.08
April/October 2008	yet to be compiled

(b) and (c) While boarding compensation being part of the revenue optimization objective of the airline, can not be considered as losses. The booking of tickets is done through a dynamic computerized system capable of monitoring and taking corrective measure.

Poor in-flight services in Air India

*313. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether in-flight service and quality of food in Air India are very bad; and

(b) whether people are more attracted to private airlines due to such a condition in Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Average rainfall in North-Eastern Region

*314. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the average rainfall in the country and in the North-Eastern Region during 2007-08 and 2008-09 so far;

(b) the names of the States where rainfall is above that average;

(c) whether Government has made any assessment on the percentage of rainwater consumed by the plants and animals during 2007-08;

(d) if so, the percentage thereof;

(e) whether Government is contemplating any plan restrict rain water going waste; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) For the year 2007, the average rainfall for India has been assessed by India Meteorological Department as 1180.7 millimeter (mm) and that for the Northeastern (NE) region as 2438.8 mm. For the year 2008 (up to 10th December 2008), the average annual rainfall for the country and the for NE region has been assessed as 1110.8 mm and 2096.3 mm respectively.

(b) List of the States where the rainfall during the years 2007 and 2008 has been found to be more than the average rainfall for the country is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) No assessment has been made in respect of percentage of rain water consumed by plants and animals.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Various measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which *Inter alia* include measures for conservation of rainwater through creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to groundwater etc. Government of India provides central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme, National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture and scheme on artificial recharge to ground water through dug wells in hard rock areas etc. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to groundwater.